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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/838,342	04/20/2001	Akihiro Sugiyama	Q64164	1068

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EXAMINER
FLEURANTIN, JEAN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2162	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary		09/838,342	SUGIYAMA, AKIHIRO
		Examiner	Art Unit
		JEAN B. FLEURANTIN	2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 February 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   This is in response to Applicant(s) arguments filed on 2/15/06.

2.   Claims 1-21 remain pending for examination.

Response to Applicant' Remarks

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive. Because of the following reasons, see sections A and B.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

A.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102
> of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject
> matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art
> to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was
> made.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No.

6,151,707 issued to Hecksel et al. ("Hecksel") in view U.S. Patent No. 6,745,196 issued to Colyer et al.,

(Based on Provisional application No. 60/158,314, filed 10/08/99) ("Colyer").

As per claim 1, Hecksel discloses a user registration supporting system which supports a user,

who uses a multi-component product including a plurality of products provided by a plurality of

companies, in applying for user registration for the plurality of products (see col. 1, lines 12-20 and col. 1,

line 66 to col. 2, line 6), "said system comprises a user-information database which stores user

information including a plurality of data items and regarding the user" as registration software program

may access a memory in the form of any volatile or non-volatile storage and retrieval device on computer,

memory may include a variety of registration information and instructions to assist in operation of

registration software program, throughout this document, the term registration information" refers to any information relating to characteristics of the user, characteristics of system, usage statistics, responses to previous requests for user data, answers to survey questions, registration profile data (see col. 4, lines 3-12);

"a user-information providing section which provides said user-information database with the user information" as a means for modifying registration information associated with a particular software program, which presenting the user with survey questions or marketing information associated with software program, collecting statistics relating to the use of software program" (see col. 4, lines 22-26); and

"to-be-registered information generating section which receives individualized specification information for specifying the at least one data item required by a plurality of companies for the user registration from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies, the individualized specification extracts at least one data item specified by each individualized specification information, from the user information stored in said user-information database, and generates to-be-registered information used by each of the plurality of companies for the user registration," as means for accessing previously stored registration information to assist a user in a current software program registration, (see col. 2, lines 24-26), and

"wherein said system can generate the to-be-registered information for the plurality of companies at once, based on the user information"' as system may generate the chronology table as it processes session data, or the chronology table may have been previously created and stored in registration profile during initial registration of software program (34a), (see col. 13, lines 27-31). Hecksel fails to explicitly disclose a to-be-registered information generating section which receives specification information from a plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies, wherein the individual specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by the company for the multi-component product. However, Colyer discloses "a to-be-registered information generating

section that receives specification information from a plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies" (see Colyer col. 2, lines 15-32), "wherein the individual specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by the company for the multi-component product" (see Colyer Fig. 1A, col. 6, lines 3-42).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Hecksel with a to-be-registered information generating section which receives specification information from a plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies, wherein the individual specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by the company for the multi-component product as disclosed by Colyer (see Colyer Fig. 1A). Such a modification would allow the teachings of Hecksel to provide a system for deriving the structure of a community whose people interact with one another on a computer network through a computer application service (see Colyer col. 1, lines 59-62).

As per claim 2, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses "a company information database which stores specification information" as the content of registration information maintained in memory (see col. 7, lines 46-60).

As per claims 3 and 13, Hecksel further discloses, "comprising a user registration section which registers the to-be-registered information for each of the plurality of companies" as software application that assists users in registering various software programs (34) with their respective publishers "companies" (see col. 4, lines 54-56 and col. 3, lines 35-42).

As per claims 4 and 12, the limitations of claims 4 and 12 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

As per claims 5, 6, 15 and 16, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Hecksel further discloses "wherein said user information includes identification information for identifying the multi-component product used by the user" as the method includes a section (300) "figure 3a" to generate a list of software programs residing on, or accessible to computer (11), a section (350) "figure 3b" to identify a matching software program, and a section (380) "figure 3c" to complete the registration session based on information associated with the matching software program, (see col. 9, lines 30-36);

"said company-information database stores information regarding the plurality of

companies providing the products according to multi-component product", (see col. 7, line 6 to col. 8, line 12).

As per claims 7, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses "sends the to-be-registered information generated by said to-be-registered information generating section to each of the company terminals" as the software registration system automatically generates a list of available communication methods for presentation to the user, (see col. 3, lines 2-15).

As per claim 8, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses "a user- information providing section provides said user-information database with the user information which is received by said communication" as remote server that receives, stores and distributes information among a variety of remote devices, (see col. 5, lines 3-8).

As per claims 9 and 19, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses, "wherein the user information is correction information which is formed by correcting the user information stored in said user-information database" as post-registration activity periods may be stored in configuration files to promote modification of registration and marketing data as updates become necessary without requiring modification to the registration software program, (see col. 2, lines 62-65).

As per claim 10, the limitations of claim 10 are rejected in the analysis of claims 1 and 8, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claims 11 and 21, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses a computer readable recording medium which records a program for controlling a computer to execute (see col. 2, lines 24-27). Hecksel fails to explicitly disclose receiving individual specification information from each of the plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies, wherein the individual specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by the company for the multi-component product. However, Colyer discloses "receiving individual specification information from each of the plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies" (see Colyer col. 2, lines 15-32), "wherein the individual specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by the company for the multi-component product" (see Colyer Fig. 1A, col. 6, lines 3-42).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Hecksel with receiving individual specification information from each of the plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies, wherein the individual specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by the company for the multi-component product as disclosed by Colyer (see Colyer Fig. 1A). Such a modification would allow the teachings of Hecksel to provide a system for deriving the structure of a community whose people interact with one another on a computer network through a computer application service (see Colyer col. 1, lines 59-62).

As per claim 14, in addition to claim 1, Hecksel further discloses, "wherein said generating includes detecting that new user information is stored in a user-information database, and generating to-be-registered information from the new user information" as the software registration system automatically generates a list of available communication methods for presentation to the user, (see col. 3, lines 2-15).

As per claim 17, Hecksel substantially discloses the invention as claimed except sending the to-be-registered information which is generated by said generating to a plurality of company terminals which are used respectively by the plurality of companies providing the components, through a network. However, Colyer discloses sending the to-be-registered information which is generated by said generating to a plurality of company terminals which are used respectively by the plurality of companies providing the components, through a network (see Colyer col. 2, lines 15-32); and (see Colyer Fig. 1A, col. 6, lines 3-42). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Hecksel with sending the to-be-registered information which is generated by said generating to a plurality of company terminals which are used respectively by the plurality of companies providing the components, through a network as disclosed by Colyer (see Colyer Fig. 1A). Such a modification would allow the teachings of Hecksel to provide a system for deriving the structure of a community whose people interact with one another on a computer network through a computer application service (see Colyer col. 1, lines 59-62).

As per claim 18, in addition to claim 17, Hecksel further discloses "wherein said storing includes providing the user-information database with the user information which is received from the user terminal (see col. 5, lines 36-42).

As per claim 20, the limitations of claim 20 are rejected in the analysis of claims 1 and 7, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

B.   Applicant(s) stated, page 2, paragraph 3, that "The Examiner again admits that the noted features

of claim 1 are not disclosed in Heckel (See Office Action: page 4). Clearly the Office Action stated that

"Hecksel fails to explicitly disclose a to-be-registered information generating section which receives

specification information from a plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are

connected through a network and used by the respective companies, wherein the individual specification

information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the

component provided by the company for the multi-component product. However, Colyer discloses "a to-

be-registered information generating section that receives specification information from a plurality of

companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the

respective companies" (see Colyer col. 2, lines 15-32), "wherein the individual specification information

for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component

provided by the company for the multi-component product" (see Colyer Fig. IA, col. 6, lines 3-42)." Thus

the argument(s) is/are moot.

In response to applicant's argument, page 2, last paragraph to page 3, first paragraph, that

"Applicant respectfully submits that Colyer reference is a nonanalogous art and that the outstanding 35

U.S.C. 9 103 (a) rejection on claim 1 should be withdrawn (See MPEP 2141.01 (a))" is nonanalogous art,

it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then

be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be

relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24

USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, The Colyer reference relates to 'an online computer

applications service that facilitates the initiation and completion of transactions between users in the

community in order to attract and invite users from the community onto the service' (see Colyer col. 1,

lines 10-23). The instant application (invention) relates to a system and method for supporting user

registration (see instant application, disclosure, page 1, paragraph 1).

In response to applicant's argument, pages 3 and 4, paragraphs 3 and 1, that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "simultaneously generating registration information for each component of a multi-component product based on individualized registration information for each component" and "the registration of a multi-component product, Colyer fails to disclose or suggest a plurality of companies which send specification information for the purpose of extracting registration information") are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See In re Van Geuns, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

In response to applicant's argument, page 5, paragraphs 2 and 3, that "there is no suggestion to combine the references of Hecksel with Colyer," the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Hecksel fails to explicitly disclose a to-be-registered information generating section which receives specification information from a plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies, wherein the individual specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by the company for the multi-component product. However, Colyer discloses "a to-be-registered information generating section that receives specification information from a plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies" (see Colyer col. 2, lines 15-32), "wherein the individual specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by the company for the multi-component product" (see Colyer Fig. 1A, col. 6, lines 3-42). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to modify the teachings of Hecksel with a to-be-registered information generating section which receives specification information from a plurality of companies from a plurality of company terminals which are connected through a network and used by the respective companies, wherein the individual specification information for each company specifies at least one data item required for user registration of the component provided by the company for the multi-component product as disclosed by Colyer (see Colyer Fig. 1A). Such a modification would allow the teachings of Hecksel to provide a system for deriving the structure of a community whose people interact with one another on a computer network through a computer application service (see Colyer col. 1, lines 59-62).

MPEP 2111: During patent examination, the pending claims must be "given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification" Applicant always has the opportunity to amend the claims during prosecussion and broad interpretation by the examiner reduces the possibility that the claim, once issued, will be interpreted more broadly than is justified. In re Prater, 162 USPQ 541,550-51 (CCPA 1969). The court found that applicant was advocating ... the impermissible importation of subject matter from the specification into the claim. See also In re Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (The court held that the PTO is not required, in the course of prosecution, to interpret claims in applications in the same manner as a court would interpret claims in an infringement suit. Rather, the "PTO applies to verbiage of the proposed claims the broadest reasonable meaning of the words in their ordinary usage as they would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, taking into account whatever enlightenment by way of definition or otherwise that may be afforded by the written description contained in application's specification.").

The broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims must also be consistent with the interpretation that those skilled in the art would reach. In re Cortright, 165 F.3d 1353, 1359, 49 USPQ2d 1464, 1468 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the last Office Action was proper.

Conclusion

4.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

CONTACT INFORMATION

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEAN B. FLEURANTIN whose telephone number is 571 – 272-4035. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:05 to 4:35.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 571 – 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
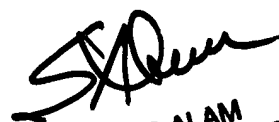
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Jean Bolte Fleurantin

Patent Examiner

Technology Center 2100

May 09, 2006

SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER